

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2719

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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UNCLAS VANCOUVER 409

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJECT: B.C. REITERATES OPPOSITION TO CANADA "JONES ACT".

1. VANCOUVER PRESS REPORT FROM WESTERN PROVINCIAL PREMIER'S MEETING IN MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA, INDICATES BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIER BILL BENNETT REITERATED BC OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION BEFORE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT ONLY CANADIAN-FLAG VESSELS TO CARRY CARGO BETWEEN CANADA'S EAST AND WEST COASTS VIA THE PANAMA CANAL. BENNETT REPORTEDLY SAID FREEDOM TO CHARTER LOWER COST FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS KEPT CEILING ON TRANS-CANADA ROAD AND RAIL FREIGHT RATES. RESTRICTING SHIP CHARTERS TO CANADIAN FLAG VESSELS WOULD INCREASE OCEAN FREIGHT RATES AND THEREFORE ROAD AND RAIL RATES AS WELL.

2. BENNETT SAID HIKE IN SHIPPING COSTS WOULD EFFECT SALES OF WESTERN CANADIAN PRODUCED GOODS IN EASTERN CANADA, ESPECIALLY FOREST PRODUCTS, AND CONCOMITANTLY INCREASE COSTS OF MANUFACTURED GOODS PURCHASED IN EASTERN CANADA FOR WESTERN CANADA CONSUMPTION.

BURGOON

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